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THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND ITS APPLICATION TO PEOPLES UNDER COLONIAL OR ALIEN DOMINATION OR FOREIGN OCCUPATION

Report on the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, submitted by Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros, Special Rapporteur, pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/5 and Commission decision 1997/120

Addendum

1. In paragraph 22 of the main body of his report, the Special Rapporteur states that he has requested information from the Government of the United States of America about any investigations being carried out, particularly in Florida, to determine to what extent groups opposed to the Cuban Government might be responsible for the commission of illegal acts against Cuba.

2. In early February 1998, following the completion of his report, which was drafted in December 1997 in compliance with the deadlines laid down by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Special Rapporteur received from the Office a copy of a reply from the Government of the United States of America, dated 13 January 1998 and signed by His Excellency Ambassador George Moose. The Special Rapporteur considers that the letter merits inclusion as an addendum to his report. The letter reads as follows:

"Thank you for your letter of 28 October. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has asked me to reply on her behalf.

"I would like to stress that the United States does not support violence as a means of achieving political change, and does not support organizations that advocate violence. In the case of the bombings of hotels in Havana which you raised in your letter, the United States strongly condemned these violent acts and we will continue to condemn the use of terrorism. Violence will not contribute to the effort to bring peaceful democratic change to Cuba, nor will it help create the foundations and institutions for a society and a government respectful of the rule of law and human rights.

"In your letter, you requested official information concerning investigations carried out in the United States regarding the alleged involvement of United States-based groups, specifically the Cuban American National Foundation (CANF), in the bombings of Havana tourist sites for which Raúl Ernesto Cruz León, a Salvadoran citizen, was arrested in Cuba. The United States Government does not have any information substantiating the alleged links between United States-based groups and the bombings in Cuba, as claimed by the Cuban Government.

"I would like to make clear that the United States Government has on at least six occasions via diplomatic channels and in meetings officially asked the Government of Cuba to provide any substantive information or evidence it has to substantiate its allegations that United States-based groups or individuals are responsible for the bombings. The United States Government has also given assurances that it will investigate such charges as the evidence warrants. The Government of Cuba has refused to provide the evidence it claims to have in its possession to support its allegations.

"Your letter also mentions information provided to you by the Cuban Government referring to 'over 30 planned anti-Cuban terrorist acts between April 1994 and September 1997, 15 of them with the explosive C-4, which were organized in Miami by the Cuban American National Foundation'. When warranted by the facts, the United States Government has investigated cases for which the Cuban Government may have provided substantive information and evidence.

"I hope that this information is of assistance to you in carrying out your mandate. I want to reiterate my Government's continued support for your efforts."